

LASER WITH INTERNALLY COUPLED PUMP SOURCE**Abstract**

Methods and apparatus for coupling of pump light inside a laser cavity of a fiber laser. The optical elements of the cladding pumped laser are configured such that the pump laser is coupled within the laser cavity. An optical fiber laser includes a laser cavity comprising a lasing medium and first and second reflector devices, a pump source, and a combiner. The combiner has a first side, a second side and an input port that may be associated with one of the first and second sides. An output of the pump source is operatively coupled to the input port of the combiner, and the combiner is coupled at its first and second sides within the laser cavity.

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